Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development, an apex body for policy direction and review, has set a target to train 500 million persons by 2022.

(c) and (d) Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development in its meeting had on 3.11.2008 has adopted Vision, Strategy and Core Principles; of which Para 2(e) states ".. If we need to game change delivery, an alternative model could be to make available every public institution, numbering over 2 lakhs in the country, above the high school level, after class hours for skill development by the private sector. Necessary regulations could be brought in by the local management authority of the particular educational institution...."

Retrenchment due to Economic Recession

954. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that companies resorted to retrenching workers as a result of the economic recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any mechanism to monitor the job loss of workers in the private sector due to retrenchment; and

(d) if so, details of the number of workers retrenched during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No exhaustive survey/study has been conducted regarding retrenchment of employees due to economic slowdown. However, a sample study has been conducted by the Labour Bureau, Chandigarh to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in various sectors like Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO for the period October-December, 2008 in the country. According to the Study, the total employment in all the sectors covered by the survey went down from 16.2 million during September, 2008 to 15.7 million during December, 2008 resulting in job loss of about half a million persons.

(c) and (d) Labour Bureau, Shimla compiles data with regard to job loss of workers in the organized sector (both in private and public sector) based on the returns submitted by the State and Central agencies. As per the report on effect of Economic Slowdown on Employment in India, the estimated loss of employment in mining, textiles, metals, gems and jewellery, automobile, and transport sectors during October-December, 2008 is 567021.

Study on impact of climate change and global warming

955. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether unprecedented rains and floods in various parts of the country are due to climate change/global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has instituted any study on climate change/global warming and the damage caused on the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of action plan formulated by Government to deal with the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Although, a recent study, carried out by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, indicates that the intensity and frequency of heavy to very heavy rainfall events is showing an increasing trend during the past 50 years over the region covering parts of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, it is not clear if this increasing trend in the heavy rainfall events is attributable to global warming or not.

(c) Details of the observed and projected changes in the climate were first reported in India's initial National Communication (NATCOM) on Climate Change to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in June, 2004. This effort has been coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), who are now working on the second NATCOM report.

Further, climate change related studies have been carried out by several research institutions like Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune, India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Physical Laboratory (NPL), National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), C-MMACS (CSIR org.), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Central Research Institute for Dry-land Agriculture (CRIDA), (ICAR org.), Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) (ISRO org.), Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bangalore, IIT, Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur University departments, research institutions and some Non-Governmental agencies.

The IMD has a long series of climate data of more than 100 years over the Indian region, which has been the basis of all past analyses of climate change and variability. The IITM, Pune is the only institution that has carried out long-term simulations of climate change over the Indian region using a regional model developed by the Hadley Centre of the UK Met. Office.

(d) The recently launched National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) of the Government of India outlines number of steps to simultaneously advance India's development and climate change related objectives of adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation. The NAPCC hinges on the development and use of new technologies through the implementation of 8-National Missions:—

(i) National Solar Mission

(ii) National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency

(iii) National Mission on Sustainable Habitat

(iv) National Water Mission

(v) National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem

(vi) National Mission for a Green India

(vii) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture

(viii) National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

The implementation of NAPCC would be through appropriate institutional mechanisms suited for effective delivery of each of 8 individual Mission's objectives and include public-private partnerships and civil society action

Number of cases registered by offices of EPF Commissioners

956. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered by the offices of the Employees Provident Fund Commissioners in the country, region-wise, against employees for violation of various provisions of labour laws during 2008-09 till 31st December, 2008;

(b) the number of such cases pending as on 31st December, 2008 region-wise, with the number out of them pending for over three years with the reasons for delay; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure speeding disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Details of cases of Provident Fund pending before various authorities/courts as on 31.03.2008 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Information is being collected from all the field offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

Statement

Details of cases pending before various authorities/courts as on 31.03.2008.

Court/Authority	Opening balance (As on 01.04.2007)	Added during the year	Total cases	Total cases decided	Pending
Supreme Court	116	33	149	8	141
High Courts	7429	1960	9389	1444	7945
NCDRC	44	37	81	22	59
EPFAT	2525	548	3073	217	2856
State Commissions	595	269	864	124	740
DCF	2193	1157	3350	1006	2344
District Courts	16853	706	17559	398	17161

NCDRC : National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

EPFAT : Employees Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal

DCF : District Consumer Forums.